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Monday, December 5, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

FIGHTLESS BIRDS

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1. What is the name of the Robert Indiana sculpture that was recently moved to Sister Cities Park?

2. How many passes did Carson Wentz throw in the Eagles loss Sunday?

3. What did Chef José Andrés buy with his first paycheck?

3 things you need to know

PENCE: TRUMP TALK WITH TAIWAN PRESIDENT A 'COURTESY CALL'

Donald Trump's phone conversation with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen on Friday, which prompted a diplomatic protest from China, was simply a "courtesy call," Vice President-elect Mike Pence said on NBC on Sunday. Asked whether any shift in policy should be read into the call, Pence said: "I don't think so." The call with Tsai was the first by a U.S. president-elect or president with a Taiwanese leader since President Jimmy Carter switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China in 1979. "This was a courtesy call. The democratically elected president of Taiwan called to congratulate the president-elect," Pence said.China's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday it has lodged "stern representations" with what it called the "relevant U.S. side," urging the careful handling of the Taiwan issue to avoid any unnecessary disturbances in ties. REUTERS

CASTRO INTERRED IN ROCK, LAST CHAPTER OF HISTORIC LIFE

Fidel Castro's ashes were placed in the niche of a boulder on Sunday, capping nine days of official mourning when hundreds of thousands of Cubans said farewell with a combination of tears, Castro-like defiance and choruses of "I am Fidel!" President Raul Castro placed the wooden box containing his elder brother's cremated remains in the 10-foot rounded stone at the Santa Ifigenia Cemetery, photos released by state media showed. A dark plaque engraved with the word "Fidel" was then fixed over the niche. Dressed in his four star general military uniform, Raul Castro saluted the rock, which was flanked by two honor guards in white uniform. REUTERS

BOWING OUT, HOLLANDE LEAVES SUCCESSOR TO FIX FRENCH ECONOMY

French voters elected Francois Hollande in 2012 on promises to fix the floundering economy. Five years on, he is leaving much unfinished work to his successor. The unpopular Socialist leader, who said he would not run in next April's presidential election, can claim some success halting the economy's decline after the financial crisis of 2008-2009, and improving the public finances. But he has deeply frustrated voters with his lack of progress on growth and unemployment and left them bitter by landing households with the cost of reining in a budget deficit. Once in office, Hollande hiked taxes on households by more than $53.4 billion — 2.5 percent of GDP — inadvertently snuffing out a nascent recovery in a move most economists now consider a mistake. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

POLAR PLUNGE AHEAD!

Bolaris' Weather Watch

JOHN BOLARIS
@weathersavior

If you remember the December of 2015, it was one unusually warm December, as record warmth was the big story in the Northeast.

By looking at all the atmospheric signals, this December is going to be dramatically colder.

Chances of snowfall will be increasing with a better than average shot of having snow on the ground for Christmas, especially during the week of Dec. 20. So shoppers keep that in mind, especially you, Santa.

That week could feature brutally cold readings as long range models indicate the polar vortex will take a dip southward into the Northeast, so the frigid air will be in place. However, the lingering question is whether we will have any storm development to go along with the polar flow. As of today, it's too early to call, but it could get interesting.

This week is starting off with a little snow, some light accumulations across the Poconos, northwest New Jersey, and parts of the Boston region, especially in the hills north and west of Boston.

The weak system responsible for this morning's light rain and wet snow will be moving quickly and conditions will be improving this afternoon.

A more significant storm will take shape Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning with moderate rain falling across New York and Philadelphia, and lighter rains across southern New England.

Polar plunge expected late Thursday through Saturday

A strong polar front will start to arrive Thursday afternoon, accompanied by the possibility of some light snow, flurries or snow showers. The mercury will plunge Thursday night as northwest winds start to howl.

Friday will be the coldest day since last February as readings will remain in the 30s along with wind chills in the bone-chilling teens and single digits come Friday morning.

We can't rule out snow showers or flurries as lake-effect streamers (fingers of snow) that streak southeastward from the snow belt of western New York state and western Pennsylvania, where 1 to 2 feet of snow should fall across portions of western New York and northwest Pennsylvania.

The polar air mass will remain locked in on Saturday, before starting to moderate for the second half of your weekend.

Philadelphia

Today: Light rain, wet flakes in northwest, High 49.

Tuesday: Rain arrives after 3 p.m., High 45.

Wednesday: Morning rain, late clearing, High 50.

Thursday: Snow shower, falling temps, High 46.

Friday: Polar blast, flurries, High 36.

Saturday: Windy and cold, High 38.

Sunday: Dry chilly, High 41.

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A family photograph of Julie Barnyock in 1993, the year she was murdered. The case remains unsolved. COURTESY OF MONTCO DA'S OFFICE

Montgomery County prosecutors renew plea for clues in teenager's murder two decades ago

Detectives still hope someone comes forward with information about how the victim ended up dead in a train yard.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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It was a cold night 23 years ago when a teenage girl called her parents from the Lansdale train station, asking for a ride home.

But when 18-year-old Julie Barnyock's father arrived at the station shortly after her 11:40 p.m. call on Nov. 8, 1993, he couldn't find her.

Joseph and Gloria Barnyock never saw their daughter again.

Three weeks later, a homeless man found Barnyock's decomposing body in a nearby train yard. Her face was reportedly unrecognizable from being bludgeoned, and she was naked below the waist. The cause of death was a blunt-force head injury.

And after after more than two decades, detectives are still seeking justice.

"There is no such thing as a cold case in Montgomery County," District Attorney Kevin Steele said in a renewed call for information to help solve the case, released on the 23rd anniversary of the discovery of Barnyock's body.

A $10,000 reward is still available for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Barnyock's killer.

"We continue to work with Lansdale police in following up on several leads we received this year," Steele said. "We've interviewed hundreds of people about Julie's murder since it happened, and we've reinterviewed many in the past several years. We want to find her murderer and bring justice to this family that has been grieving for 23 years now with no closure."

In the years since Barnyock's death, numerous theories have been floated about how she wound up dead. Witnesses said they saw her speaking with a man at the train station before she disappeared.

But as three November weeks elapsed between Barnyock's disappearance and the discovery of her body, physical evidence was reportedly hard to find at the crime scene.

The Morning Call reported that investigators originally had two suspects: a homeless man who knew Barnyock from her frequent visits to South Street, and a man who was convicted of attacking two women at train stations, including one attack at Lansdale Station.

The newspaper also reported on suspicions swirling around Arthur Bomar, who was convicted of murdering another young woman outside Philadelphia. He had worked at Doylestown Hospital as an orderly when Barnyock was a patient there, but was never linked to her death.

According to the Inquirer, Barnyock, of New Britain, had graduated from Central Bucks High School that June. She was just coming back from a day spent with friends on South Street in Philadelphia.

Her mother told the Inquirer that her daughter "was too trusting" and befriended "street people and squatters."

Tipsters: Call Montgomery County detectives at 610-278-3368 or Lansdale police at 610-270-0977.

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Winter biking: Advice for cycling with Jack Frost

The most common-sense thing to do is bundle up.

RANDY LOBASSO

It's December. The temperature is dropping. And for cyclists, that means it's time for winter biking tips.

If, like me, you commute by bicycle all year — saving money, being healthy, and getting to and from your destination without circling the block looking for parking (which actually makes up 30 percent of all traffic in cities) — there are a few things you should know about cutting through the cold wind, riding over the ice, and dealing with motor vehicle users who expected you to turn in your wheels for the winter.

The easiest, and most commonsense thing to do is bundle up. According to Bicycle Coalition members who responded to a Twitter call for cold-weather advice during an 18-degree day last winter, Philly cyclists would do well to invest in a baklava that fits under their helmet and covers up their ears. They're available in most bike shops around Philadelphia, all of which can be found on BicycleCoalition.org.

The other piece of clothing you won't be able to live without: a good pair of gloves or mittens. I personally put on two pairs of gloves because I find having all my fingers free allows me to better steer my bicycle than mittens — but to each her own.

Long socks or leg-warmers are pretty key for both windy days and wet ones. Most pants — denim and khaki alike — aren't great for windy, cold days on their own. So, if you can get something under them, do that.

Given the winter tends to be a bit icy, and Philly's streets aren't always clear the day after a storm, it's also recommended you bike more cautiously.

"Take turns wider on sloppy road conditions, and watch out for places where the weight of cars has packed snow down into irregular ice lumps — those can be tricky," notes People for Bikes. "Ride on clear pavement when you can and don't be afraid to take the lane if the street is too narrow due to snow banks for safe passing."

And if you keep your bike outside overnight, or while you're at work or school, chances are your brakes and tires will get icy in the weather. So, while riding, give yourself ample time to brake ahead of a red light or stop sign. You don't want to be caught slipping through an intersection you didn't mean to in South Philly, given drivers' propensity to South Philly slide-on through.

Report hazardous conditions, too. If you see unplowed bike lanes or other icy hazards on the street, let the city know about it. The city has the proper equipment to shovel snow from the streets and trails, but they're not going to know it's a problem unless you tell them about it.

And while you're at it, a mounted video camera wouldn't hurt your cause. If motorists don't follow the rules, notes Philly bike lawyer Joe Piscitello, and you want to press charges, it's best you have that footage on camera.

Randy Lobasso is communications manager at the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia.

An expanded version can be seen at metro.us

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There are other requirements to be in the study that the study doctor will discuss with you to determine if you are eligible to participate.

Study participation is voluntary. You will receive investigational study medications and study-related tests and procedures at no cost.

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BRIEF

Armed grinches steal Christmas gifts in Philly home invasion

Three masked men strong-armed their way into a Northeast Philadelphia family's home, and made off with jewelry, cash and Christmas presents for the kids.

Around 4 a.m. Sunday, the armed suspects knocked on the door of a home on the 4600 block of Oakmont Street, where five adults and three children live. The children's father answered the door, and the suspects put a gun to his face, 6ABC reported.

GETTY IMAGES

"They took me around the house looking for stuff, throwing stuff around," the father told the news station, adding that the suspects asked him to open his safe.

After ransacking the home and taking their loot, including $750 in cash, the suspects fled out the front door on foot.

No injuries were reported and the children are safe, according to reports.

According to police, the suspects were all in dark clothing.

ALEXIS SACHDEV

Firefighters work to put out a single-alarm fire on the 2300 block of Van Pelt Street in Strawberry Mansion on April 13, 2015. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Philadelphia Fire Department holds on to tradition while moving into future

Philly's historic firefighting force has changed a lot over the years, but the core job remains the same.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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The Philadelphia Fire Department has come a long way from the days when horse-drawn fire trucks raced to the scenes of blazes to spray water pumped out of the Delaware River. But the spirit of the men and women who serve is still the same.

"The Fire Department's been in operation for 145 years," said John Wright, the Fire Department's official historian. "There's a lot of traditions, and there's still people keeping these traditions to this day. … But the basic concept is still get a hoseline and put the fire out."

The technology has changed a bit, but the core responsibilities have not. There are still stations full of Philly firefighters waiting to respond at a moment's notice to a fire around the city, with one guy sitting watch waiting to respond to calls 24/7.

The Fireman's Hall Museum, where Wright has volunteered for 29 years, has a steam fire engine from 1858 that firefighters used to pulled by hand.

Back in those days, water was piped underground through hollow cypress logs. Firefighters would have to dig underground to spike a hole in the logs to get access to the water, which they later plugged up and marked for future firefighters — that's why in Philly, some people still call hydrants "fire plugs."

The Fireman's Hall also contains the Fireman's Memorial, with the names of every Philly firefighter who fell in the line of duty. There are 13 names of men who died after a building collapsed on them in Dec. 21, 1910. Eleven more died after being exposed to chemicals fighting a laboratory fire on Oct. 28, 1954.

It goes through the eight who died in the 1975 Gulf oil refinery fire, up to the most recent tragedy, the loss of firefighter Joyce Craig, who died Dec. 9, 2014.

"It's a good job with great benefits, but this is the other side," Wright said. "These firefighters are the bricks. They built what we have today."

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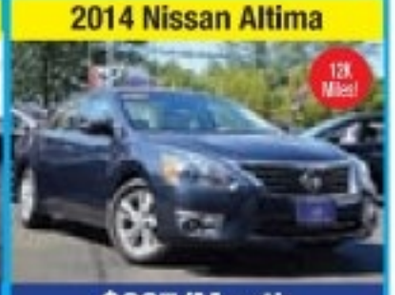

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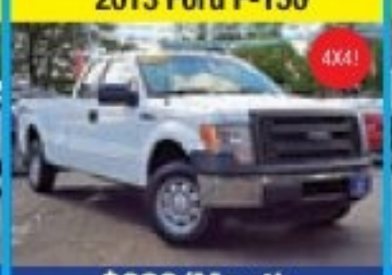

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A Donald Trump museum? Maybe in Atlantic City

His name appears on golf courses, luxury hotels, casinos and, possibly in the near future, a museum.

A group of Atlantic City locals want to memorialize President-elect Donald Trump's impact on the New Jersey shore town through artifacts and stories from those who worked at his properties over the last three decades, the Press of Atlantic City reported Saturday.

The band of residents hopes such a museum could bring tourists to the area and would be of historical interest now that the billionaire real estate magnate will be sworn in as president next month.

One member and a doctoral student at Temple University, Levi Fox, started walking tours along the boardwalk, offering an in-depth look at the Republican's 26-year involvement with Atlantic City.

President-elect Donald Trump.
GETTY IMAGES

Fox told the Press that, much like first-lady-to-be Melania Trump's birthplace of Sevnica, Slovenia, has seen a boom in tourism since the election, Atlantic City could similarly benefit from such celebrity.

Trump opened the Taj Mahal in 1990 for $1 billion. By the next year, under his ownership, the Taj filed for bankruptcy. The following year, two more Trump casino holdings — Trump Marina and Trump Plaza — also filed for bankruptcy.

By 2014, after several years of financial restructuring, Trump Entertainment Resorts filed again for bankruptcy protection. Shortly thereafter, business magnate Carl Icahn snatched up the properties.

But even Icahn couldn't maintain control. Trump Taj Mahal, once billed as the Eighth Wonder of the World, shuttered in October when negotiations with an employees' union broke down. The Taj became the fifth casino to close in the once-glitzy mecca of gambling and luxury.

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BRIEF

Donate to Metro's Toy Drive
In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

This year marks the seventh anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor in chief. Mr. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive.

"Tony felt we should use the size and scale of Metro to help others and he used enormous dedication and force to execute the project and every year make children in need a little happier during the holiday season," said Metro's Chief Executive Officer Yggers Mortensen.

"I am proud to continue this project in honor of Tony and I hope all our readers, suppliers and members of the Metro team will help to make this yet another great Metro Magic year."

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to Metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic story on the homepage.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season, we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

It's good to receive a gift. It's better to give one. METRO

We want your pics!

Send Metro your photos to be featured in next Monday's issue.

Post your best local photos to Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #metropicsphilly to not only see them in our paper, but also on Metro.us and our social media pages.

This week's photo features leaves covering local streets.

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Firefighters work to clear the debris from a doorway following the fire at a warehouse in the Fruitvale neighborhood in Oakland, California. GETTY IMAGES

Death toll in Oakland loft fire rises

The building was designated for use as a warehouse only, according to the city.

The death toll in a fire that devastated a California loft building during a weekend dance party has climbed to 33 people and will likely rise further as recovery teams push deeper into the charred ruin, authorities said on Sunday.

Oakland firefighters found the remains of 30 victims as they sifted through the debris-filled shell of the two-story converted warehouse in Oakland being used by an artists' collective. The cause of the fire was still undetermined, officials said. Authorities said they did not suspect arson, but investigators want to find out if the building had a history of code violations.

"That is an astronomical number," Sgt. Ray Kelly, a spokesman for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, said as he announced the number of fatalities. "We're still not done."

The blaze, which erupted about 11:30 p.m. PST on Friday, already ranks as the deadliest in the United States since 100 people perished in a 2003 Rhode Island nightclub fire.

Chris Nechodom, 30, said he arrived early at the party, which featured electronic dance music, and was on the ground floor when he saw flames race across the ceiling. As he left he heard a loud noise and saw a huge plume of thick black smoke billowing out.

"It blew out maybe 10 feet out of the entrance. After that I saw a few more people crawl out," he said.

Nechodom was surprised the number of victims was so high, given the relatively small size of the gathering. "It sounds like more people got stuck than got out," he said.

"It blew out maybe 10 feet out of the entrance. After that I saw a few more people crawl out."
Nechodom

He said he was unsure how many people were inside when the fire started. Many of the victims were believed to be in their 20s and 30s.

Family members were asked to preserve items that might contain DNA of the victims, including combs, toothbrushes and hair brushes, to help with identification.

"It's a terrible thing to have to say that and to have to come out here and do that, but that is what we're left to deal with here," Kelly said.

As of Sunday morning, only 20 percent of the building had been searched, said Melinda Drayton, battalion chief at the Oakland Fire Department.

The recovery operation was delayed for hours as the roof collapsed onto the second floor and in some spots, the second story had fallen onto the first, making it unsafe to enter.

Firefighters have gone through the building searching the debris "bucket by bucket," Drayton said.

"It was quiet, it was heartbreaking," she said, referring to the search. "This will be a long and arduous process."

Exhaustion and the scope of the disaster were taking an emotional toll on crews, officials said. REUTERS

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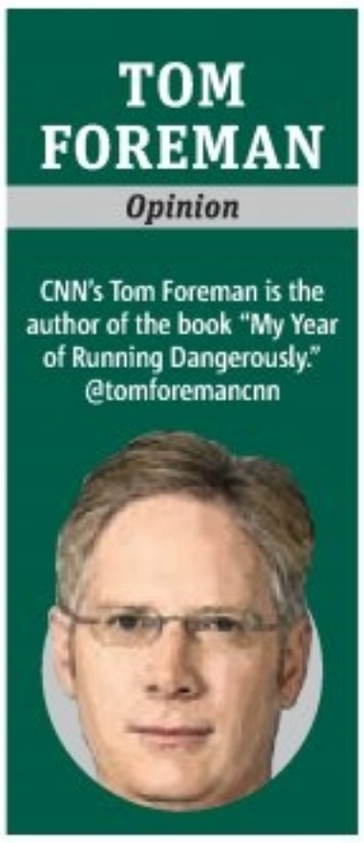

From the White House to Capitol Hill, you can't imagine the bustle and chaos gripping D.C. right now. So amid the moving vans and boxes, here are my three things to watch this week in politics.

1. BULL IN CHINA: Donald Trump's opponents have long argued his "leap first, then look" approach could be dangerous in the dicey world of diplomacy where even a sloppy handshake has consequences. So you can imagine their dismay over his unexpected phone call with the leader of Taiwan. Many fear he is risking unchained turmoil in U.S.-China relations because, ya know, China is not exactly a fan of Taiwan's behavior. Team Trump says it's not such a big deal, just a congratulatory call, and anyway he said he'd do things differently. But many political pros see this as a rookie mistake, and it has put them on high alert to call out the next one with even more vigor.

2. RECOUNT REDUX: As expected, the call to recount votes in some battleground states has turned into a fight of its own. In Michigan and Wisconsin, Trump supporters are howling that the idea is frivolous considering it was launched by Green Party candidate, Jill Stein, who received only a sliver of the vote. Stein says she wants to insure the integrity of the process, but Trump fans see other motives — delegitimizing his win. Watch for Trump's team to push hard this week to at least slow the process, because any recount must be completed before the Electoral College meets on Dec. 19, or it likely won't matter.

3. WISH LIST: Your kids may be jazzed about the end of December, but for Republicans, Christmas comes in January. That's when they'll officially have both chambers of Congress and the White House, and they're already making up their legislative wish list which includes repealing major portions of Obamacare. Democrats are pledging a bar fight if the GOPers try, so as the temperatures drop watch for the words to get much, much hotter.

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Kanye West breakdown result of meds

GETTY IMAGES

After being hospitalized for eight days, Kanye West is back home with his family and new information is being released about his condition and what led to his breakdown. TMZ has learned that the rapper has been previously diagnosed with psychological issues that were being treated with medication. Following the armed robbery of his wife, Kim Kardashian, Kanye deviated from his prescribed dosage of these meds. Doctors were able to stabilize him during his stay at the hospital.

Now that he's a free man, it's up to him to properly regulate his medication. With everything on Kanye and Kim's plate, "no one man should have all that power."

the word

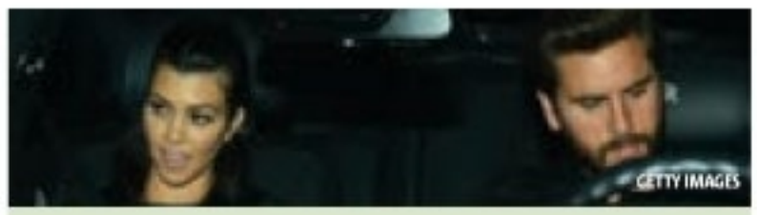
SESALI BOWEN
sesali.bowen@metro.us

Is Madonna still in love with Sean Penn?

GETTY IMAGES

Madonna and Sean Penn are only two of the throngs of celebrities who were in Miami over the weekend for Art Basel. But these two have more in common than a love for art. Many moons ago they were married, and during her Raising Malawi charity auction and gala on Friday night Madonna confessed that she's still in love with the actor. But she may have just been laying on the charm for charity. According to E! News, she also offered to remarry the 56-year-old actor if he bid $150,000 on a necklace. And he did it! So maybe Madonna isn't the only one carrying something for an old flame.

So exactly how long has this flame been lit? Madonna and Penn were married in 1985 and divorced in 1989. It looks like love might actually last forever, even if the marriage doesn't.

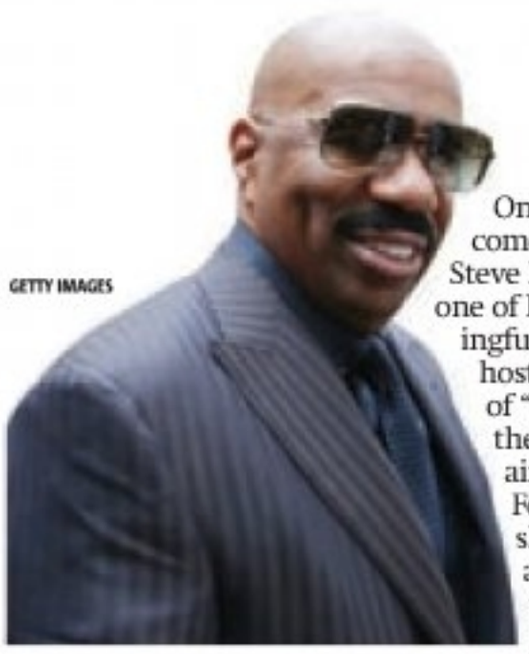

GETTY IMAGES

Kourtney's still not sure about Scott

We saw Kourtney Kardashian and Scott Disick's reconciliation coming from a mile away. The two reality stars have three children together. Not to mention they rely on each other for a plot line on "Keeping Up with the Kardashians." They were together for nine years before breaking up in 2015. And even though they're still our least favorite couple ever, we knew their split was just an extended "off" in their on-again, off-again relationship.

What we didn't see coming was the conditions of their rekindling. TMZ is reporting that although the couple is on good terms thanks to Scott's sobriety and commitment to his children, Kourtney insists that there is "no intimacy." It looks like Kourtney wants to take things pretty slow.

There won't be a fourth Kardashian-Disick baby any time soon. But can you imagine how exhausted their friends and family must be trying to keep up with this relationship?


GETTY IMAGES

Steve Harvey hosts star-studded revival of 'Showtime at the Apollo'

On Friday night, comedian and actor Steve Harvey reprised one of his most meaningful roles yet. He hosted the revival of "Showtime at the Apollo" which airs tonight on Fox at 8. The show, which aired from 1987 until 2008, is how Harvey, and other amazing acts like Lauryn Hill and Alicia Keys, got their start in the entertainment industry. Harvey hosted the show from 1993-2000.

The Young, Black & Fabulous reports that Friday's filming included a performance from Ja Rule and Ashanti of their new "Hamilton" soundtrack hit "Helpless." Comedians Mike Epps and Chris Rock, and hip-hop artists Rakim and Doug E. Fresh were also in attendance for the taping.

These clips are certainly serving some nostalgia. But everyone knows "Showtime at the Apollo" is known for its brutal audience reactions. We're mostly looking forward to joining the crowd in booing unsavory acts.

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Taylor Lautner won't always take his shirt off

Taylor Lautner and Constance Zimmer play a son and mother at odds in "Run the Tide," now on VOD. ORION PICTURES

The actor and his "Run the Tide" co-star Constance Zimmer talk playing mother and son.

GARY M. KRAMER
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In the new melodrama, "Run the Tide," Reymund (Taylor Lautner) has been taking care of his younger brother, Oliver (Nicos Christou), while their addict mother, Lola (Constance Zimmer, "Unreal"), has been in prison. But when Lola is about to be released, Reymund fears another cycle of abuse, and kidnaps Oliver to protect him. We talk to the "Twilight" alum and Zimmer about playing troubled characters.

Constance, what appealed to you about playing Lola?

Constance Zimmer: I've never had the opportunity to play a character like this who is broken, flawed and looking for redemption from the people she hurt the most and loved the most. She's stripped of everything—not just her makeup and hair, but emotionally as well.

Taylor, Reymund carries a huge chip on his shoulder. What do you think about forgiveness?

Taylor Lautner: I don't hold grudges. I'm like a Golden Retriever: Smack me in the face one day and the next I'll beg you to play with me. I forgive too easily. I think it's a good quality. Everyone deserves a second chance. That's what Lola is going through. Forgiveness is a positive thing.

Rey has issues with trust given Lola's behavior. Are you trusting?

Lautner: I tend to put up walls. I tend to take relationships a notch slower than normal and make sure someone is in it for the right reasons. Then I let down the walls and give everything.

Constance, what observations do you have about Lola's parenting choices?

Zimmer: Parents make choices for their children that might be really hard, but might help them in the end. She wants to give Rey back his life and have Rey give her back her life.

Taylor, do you feel pressure to carry a film as a leading man after your "Twilight" success?

Lautner: With this film, I didn't feel pressure; it was a passion project for everyone involved. The story is based off of the writer's life. We were a team that wanted to tell this story and touch people.

GETTY IMAGES

What about your heart-throb status and penchant for displaying your abs?

Lautner: I find myself rebelling against it now. It if doesn't make sense for me to be shirtless, let's not do it. I have done so much of that in my time. I didn't feel that in this.

You also sing quite badly twice in the film. Are you a terrible singer?

Lautner: I am the worst singer you'll ever meet in your life. But I love a good karaoke night and showing off my bad skills.

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It may be a comedy, with George Clooney making Tex Avery cartoon faces and Brad Pitt's funny bleached hair. But the Coens brothers' follow-up to their grizzled, grisly "No Country for Old Men" is arguably the bleaker, scarier film. Characters' bloody ends are accidentally orchestrated by people they've never met; the nicest one is ended with a hatchet to the neck.You watch it the first time to laugh; you watch it again to cringe.

"PADDINGTON"

We all need something nice now. Hugs. Kisses. Excessive amounts of alcohol. Movies about cute talking bears who like marmalade. "Paddington" is the latter. If it was American, it would be unbearable. Thankfully, it's British. But most of all it has a bear who sounds like Ben Whishaw. That alone should be a pleasant distraction from our president-elect's tweets.

THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

"BOYHOOD"

Here's Ellar Coltrane in the early stretches of Richard Linklater's "Boyhood," his beloved film that was shot over 12 years. IFC FILMS

Here's something you couldn't do in theaters: Thanks to the magic of streaming video, you can watch Richard Linklater's hyper-praised experiment — about 12 years in the life of a boy (Ellar Coltrane), shot over 12 years — in chunks. You're meant to take it in one big glop, let the decade-plus wash over you like a cosmic head trip. Or you could stop at the end of every year, take a big break, then return to the next bit at a later date. Each time our hero — and his parents, played by Patricia Arquette and Ethan Hawke, plus his sister (Linklater's own daughter, Lorelei) — will have aged just a bit more. You'll even be able to focus on the details of each episode, rather than speeding through it. The best way to watch Linklater's "Before" movies, after all, is to do it in real time. Granted, you don't necessarily have to take 12 years to watch it; after all, thanks to the fickle nature of Netflix rights issues, "Boyhood" will probably be gone from their realm in a month anyway.

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Opposites Attract

Alee Spadoni as Charlotte in "Antagonyms." REBECCA GUDELUNAS

Philly's Curio Theatre Company presents contradictions at play with "Antagonyms."

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

If an "antagonym" is an English language word that has two opposing meanings, then a play by that same name should be a densely complex theatrical work with more twists than a bag of pretzels. First-time playwright Rachel Gluck and the rest of Philly's Curio Theatre Company rely upon the catty thrill of the contradictory, an appreciation of film-noir tropes and the dueling concepts of love and identity for "Antagonyms." Four local actors (Alee Spadoni, Alexander Scott Rioh, Andrew Carroll, Colleen Hughes) portray two Philadelphia couples who go at each others' throats, "and throw their weight around on stage for an hour or two," says Gluck — a longtime Curio Company member — about characters trying to outrun their demons while hanging in West Philly dive bars and Hollywood back lots.

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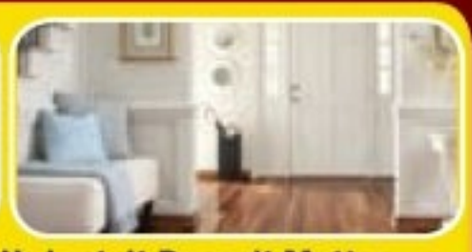

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actions and characters throughout the play?
So, antagonyms are words that have multiple definitions which contradict each other. A classic example is the word "cleave," which means either to attach together or split apart. In a world of "Antagonyms," all of my characters are really gifted at using language to obfuscate and deceive, and really bad at honest self-expression. More often than not they are not saying what they mean, and frequently they are saying the opposite. I'm also getting some mileage out of the root word, which is only semi-intentional. People frequently mis-remember the title as "Antagonisms" or "Antagonists," which is OK with me. This isn't a play about nice people.

How quickly did your rise through the ranks at Curio and what sort of company do you see or feel it to be?
This is my sixth season at Curio. Previously, my role has always been as an actor. This is the first play I've had produced. It's always been like a family to me and a place that has really encouraged me to grow. It's also a place that has grown with me. It seems like in the time I've been there every season has been an improvement over the last, and I can really see evidence of that in the way the community has been responding to us as well. I wrote this play a couple of years ago not really thinking about what its home would be. So, I've been lucky in that I've found an artistic home where people have been enthusiastic about this play from the beginning.

"Antagonyms" has the feel of a modern/present-day noir escapade. What sort of models did you have for that? Filmic inspirations such as "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid," "The Last Seduction," even the brand new "La La Land" come to mind.
Those are good examples. I'm a big fan of both modern and classic noir and have a lot of affection for the movie "Brick" because its approach to updating noir is having ridiculously stylized dialogue coming out of the mouths of modern characters. Rather than finding a way to make it fit in a modern setting, the movie just says, "This is the tone. This is what we're doing," and you just have to accept it so you can go on this fun ride. That's not the balance I'm striking but it's something along those lines. I like playing with the vocal cadence of old Hollywood films.

Your ideas about personal identity, gender and sexuality are all a part of this play. How do they creep into that noir setting?
Identity is important in the noir world, especially when you talk about classic noir. There's a rigid formula for who your characters are and how they behave, and it's very gendered. The most obvious example of this is the femme fatale, which is a fun, sexy female archetype that is also massively problematic to me as a woman and a feminist. As I was writing the play, I naturally gravitated toward subverting that, and what I wound up imagining is a world with femmes fatales and hommes fatales, where everyone is the duper and the dupe. That meant I had to care about why everyone is the way they are in a way that traditional noirs often don't.

So then, is "Antagonyms" a drama with fanciful fantasy elements or a fantasy with deep dramatic elements?
Hopefully, it's an even blend. We're definitely in a heightened world, but my intention is to use that to explore meaningful emotional journeys that are grounded in reality.

"Antagonyms" opens Dec. 8 and runs until Dec. 17, Calvary Center for Culture and Community, 4740 Baltimore Ave, in the Black Box Theatre. 8 p.m. $15-$25, curiotheatre.org.

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The new trend in college admissions

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HOW TO GET AHEAD

GETTY IMAGES

Digital portfolios give applicants a way to stand out among the crowd.

SARA FEINSTEIN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

When 18-year-old Gillian Pelkonen was applying to colleges last winter, she made sure to send not only her carefully crafted college essay, résumé and list of extracurriculars, but also a digital portfolio, which included links to a few songs she produced on SoundCloud and a video with snippets from five of her high school play performances.

Now a freshman at Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications, she credits her acceptance to her eclectic application.

"I wanted to let colleges know that I wasn't just sitting in the library all day studying, but that I was also engaging with my community and spending a lot of time acting and singing," says Pelkonen.

"During application season, our guidance counselors kept reminding us that there are thousands of supersmart kids applying to college, so you really needed to stand out."

They were absolutely right. As admissions officers continually search for the most well-rounded students, digital portfolios have increasingly become a way for e applicants to distinguish themselves.

It's called "portfolio-based review," says Alexis Bauserman, the vice president of college counseling at The Princeton Review, and it's on its way to becoming the new trend in college admissions she says.

Unlike the standard college application, which consists of transcripts, essays, test scores and a 150-character-limit to describe extracurriculars, portfolios allow kids to showcase their creativity through photos, videos and clips.

"Social media was the beginning of the conversation," Bauserman explains. It was obvious that kids could be defined by their social realms, many of which existed online, and so the next question became: "How do we make our applications more relevant to who they are as people?"

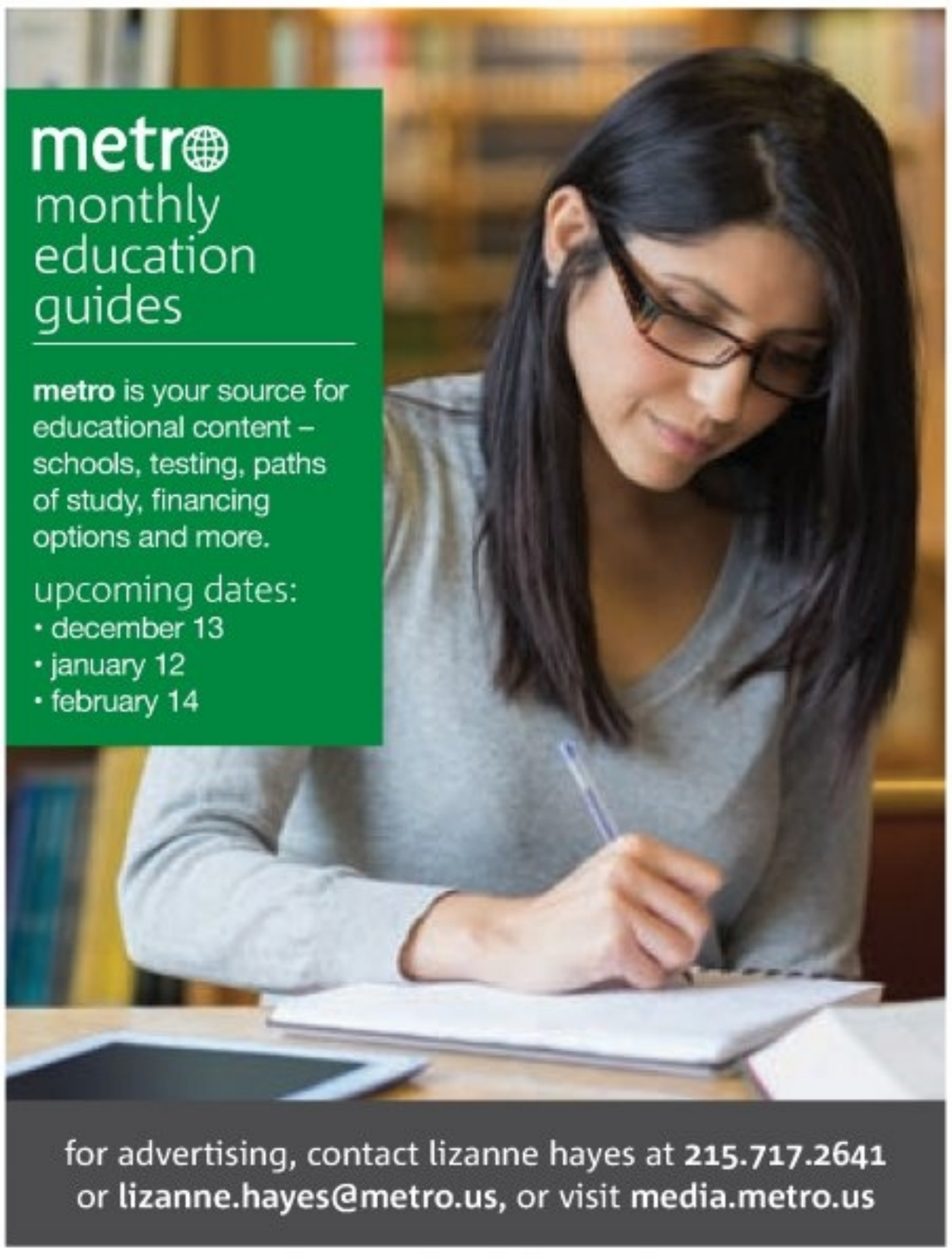
While many colleges have yet to begin opening "digital lockers" for their applicants, students have found a way around this by choosing to share links to their work.

Christina Chu has witnessed this firsthand at IvyWise, an organization that provides admissions-counseling services to high school students. She mentioned one high schooler in a fusion band who included a YouTube clip of his music in his application.

"Technology enables students to show more, but I think it's also that students are doing a lot more," says Chu.

It's also way for them to craft their online persona and establish a strong digital footprint.

"After all, going to college isn't just about going to college — it's about preparing for your career," says Bauserman. "I like the idea of high school students dipping their toes in and presenting their professional selves online."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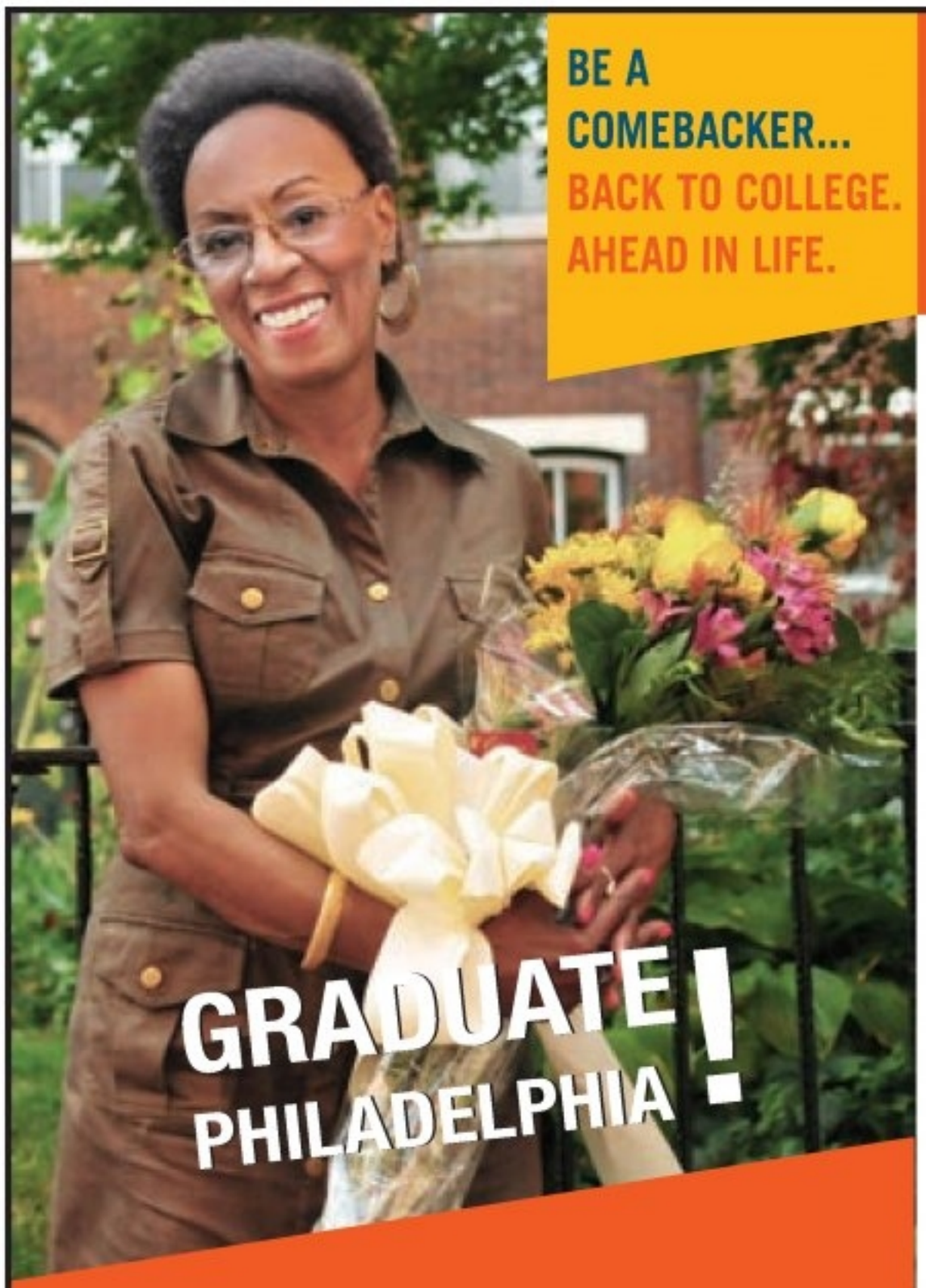

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How José Andrés grew from intern to top chef

The famed chef tells us what he's learned along the way.

CHERYL LU-LIEN TAN
REUTERS
letters@metro.us

Award-winning chef and restaurateur José Andrés got his start the old-fashioned way: as a teenage apprentice.

Andrés worked his way up from a convention center restaurant in Barcelona to an American-based food empire in ThinkFoodGroup, which includes acclaimed restaurants, catering services and a food truck.

Now 47, Andrés just received two Michelin stars for his Washington restaurant minibar, and was recently honored by President Barack Obama with a National Humanities Medal.

Andrés has even made headlines for a restaurant he did not open, at President-elect Donald Trump's new hotel in Washington, for which he is still embroiled in a $10 million breach of contract lawsuit.

Andrés discusses the life lessons he has learned along his journey.

Jose Andrés was named Chef of the Year at the Las Vegas Food & Wine Fest.
GETTY IMAGES

What did your first job teach you?

There were four people in the kitchen, and sometimes we were serving 200 or 300 people at once. What I learned was that as a worker, when you work and you make yourself useful and indispensable, your value always increases.

When you were starting your own business, what lessons about money stuck with you?

It was 1994 that I got my first loan from a bank to pay for a little investment in a restaurant with my partner, Cafe Atlantico in Miami. We weren't super-prepared. The restaurant did OK, but two or three years later, it closed. The life lesson was that if you don't raise your own money, you don't really learn the value of owning something.

We all have dreams, but at the end of the day, the numbers have to make sense. Bills have to be paid and salaries and rent — you cannot escape that fate.

What did you buy with your first paycheck?

I bought a cookbook — "The Escoffier Cookbook and Guide to the Fine Art of Cookery." Knowledge is power, and that book was like the heart of French cooking. That's a book that's been very important in my life. I also bought a Supertramp cassette of a concert in Paris.

What has become your secret to business success?

Make quick decisions. It's almost like Darwin in the business world. The strongest will survive, and adaptation is key. I've been fairly good at evolving — I never graduated from a school and I didn't have a normal studying life, but I kept learning as I kept moving.

I was a cook, then I became a chef, then I had an investment partner, then I became an owner. I always knew what I lacked and always tried to surround myself with people who had what I lacked or what I needed more of.

What money lessons do you pass down to your daughters (ages 12, 14 and 17)?

Sometimes I feel like the more physical things we own, the less free we are. Making money somehow is easy — saving money somehow is very difficult.

So don't really spend the money on that one more thing you're going to be selling at your garage sale. Time is money, and every day the clock is ticking and every day we have less time. So I will say that I want to die rich of experiences and moments.

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3 Things we saw (and wish we could unsee) in Eagles loss to Bengals

Philadelphia's ugly loss in Ohio will likely cost them a shot at the playoffs.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

Making a bad situation worse, the Eagles lost Dorial Green-Beckham to a rib injury in the second half. His status is yet unknown. GETTY IMAGES

"This game now qualifies as a total mess," Eagles radio play-by-play announcer Merrill Reese said after the Eagles picked up their second 15-yard penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct in the third quarter on the same drive.

"The Eagles are asleep, they have nothing," Reese said at the end of the ensuing drive, one that saw the Bengals add a field goal and improve their lead to 29-0.

In Sunday's Week 13 32-14 loss, the Eagles hit a new low.

All three phases of the game failed them and the Birds looked, pretty much, like they didn't even suit up to play.

The Eagles crawled back, a late fourth–quarter fumble caused by a big Nigel Bradham hit giving Philly life down two scores with six minutes left, but Carson Wentz's third interception (to Vontaze Burfict) was the unofficial end to the Birds' playoff hopes.

Here are three things we saw in the latest Eagles' setback dropping them to 5-7.

1 Outplayed in every phase

The Eagles offense was flat early — what else is new? — but their defense held for a minutes at least, keeping the Bengals out of the end zone deep in their own territory as a Mike Nugent field goal put Cincy up 3-0 in the early going.

But the defense couldn't contain Cody Core, who caught his first career reception on a bomb from Andy Dalton to set up a touchdown scamper for Jeremy Hill and a 10-0 lead for the Bengals.

Philly's first chance at points hit the upright as a Caleb Sturgis 51-yard try was no good midway through the second quarter.

The Bengals added another field goal and a Tyler Eifert touchdown toss in the closing second of the second quarter as their defense shut down Philly in the first half 19-0.

More of the same plagued the Eagles in the second half, as they allowed the Bengals to march down the field and score to cap off a 77-yard drive with a Brandon LaFell touchdown catch. After an added field goal, the Eagles finally got on the board on a fourth down red zone toss from Wentz to Zach Ertz.

2 Out of place

Penalties once again haunted the Eagles throughout the game with six in the first half stifling several promising drives. The offensive line, now a makeshift unit with several starters sidelined and some of those on the field shuffled out of position, was responsible for many of the self-inflicted wounds. False start penalties cost the Eagles in 5-yard increments turning third and manageables into third and long.

A bevy of other mistakes cost the Eagles dearly, not the least of which were the 10 penalties for 88 yards in total (the Bengals committed just three for 13 yards). The Birds also turned it over three times, each coming on Wentz interceptions. He threw the ball a ridiculous 60 times in the loss.

The rookie quarterback looked alternatively professional and out of place, most often the latter as he turned in yet another lackluster performance.

3 No fight

The Eagles, believe it or not, held the ball for longer than the Bengals did, but they were shredded into pieces by Dalton, who resembled an All-Pro quarterback, throwing for 332 yards on 23-for-31 passing with two touchdowns. His favorite target, Lafell, caught five passes for 95 yards.

It was mistakes, not routine play, that hurt the Eagles. They went 8-for-17 on third down, a respectable number compared to recent weeks while converting both three times on five fourth down tries — the second in the fourth quarter leading to a Darren Sproles touchdown run to cut the lead to 29-14.

But on defense they were undone. After boasting one of the best units up to this point in the season, Philly allowed 413 yards and didn't stop Cincinnati once in the first half.

The ways of Wentz

Carson Wentz may have thrown three interceptions Sunday but the rookie continues to progress and set impressive marks. He completed 36 passes for 308 yards and a touchdown, tying for the third-highest completion total ever by an Eagle and setting the rookie record. Wentz now has three 300-yard games this season and three of the five highest passing yardage totals ever among Eagles rookies. He is the only one with three 300-yard performances.

Wentz' three interceptions Sunday are more than fellow rookie Dak Prescott has thrown all season. After the game, Wentz tweeted, *"Tough one today... But no time to be negative! Gotta stay positive and keep things in perspective. #AO1"*

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Conference champion Owls to play Bowl in Annapolis

Temple will return to the site of their AAC crown in a few weeks for the Military Bowl.

JON MARKS
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For the second straight postseason, the Owls are going bowling. GETTY IMAGES

A Temple season which began with the Owls getting crushed on the ground by Army came full circle with Matt Rhule's team swabbing the Navy-Marine Corps Stadium decks from start to finish against Navy Saturday, 34-10, to win the championship of the American Athletic Conference.

As a reward they'll get a chance to return to the scene and do it all over again against Wake Forest in the Military Bowl, Dec. 27. It will be the Owls second appearance in this game, originally known as the Eagle Bank Bowl. Al Golden's team lost to UCLA, 30-21, in 2009 at RFK Stadium.

Their fate was sealed late yesterday afternoon, about an hour after their slim hopes of making it to Dallas for the Cotton Bowl were extinguished with news 13-0 MAC champion Western Michigan was getting that invitation.

But it will do nothing to extinguish the pure unadulterated joy the Owls felt while they were celebrating making history against the No. 19 ranked Midshipmen.

Not since 1967 when Temple took the Division II Middle Atlantic Conference title under George Makris had the Owls won a conference title. In fact in the past 49 years under nine coaches Temple had posted only 15 winning seasons, eight of them by Wayne Hardin, who left in 1982.

So this is rarefied air for these Owls, for whom the party started on the Temple side of the field a few minutes before quarterback Philip Walker — voted the game's Outstanding Player after throwing for 199 yards and two touchdowns — took a knee on the final snap. They players hugged and chest-bumped, while a legion of fans who'd made the 125 mile trip from home cheered endlessly.

Championship game hats were handed out, before the AAC Trophy was presented to Rhule, oblivious to the chill in the air, wearing only shirtsleeves. He quickly passed it around to the players, who carried it over to the stands for everyone wearing cherry and white to see.

"It means everything," said All-AAC linebacker Hassan Reddick, after the celebration finally died down. "It's an indescribable feeling. I never won a championship in high school. So to come to college and be on a platform like this and win and leave as a senior, I feel truly blessed."

He was hardly alone.

"It's a special feeling," added All-AAC offensive tackle Dion Dawkins, one of 17 seniors who'll find out tomorrow what bowl game they'll be playing in. "At the end of the game, I'm thinking, 'We finally got it. It took all this time and all these years, but it's finally here.'

"From how my career started, no, I could've never imagined this. It's been a long road, but I'm happy we stuck it out."

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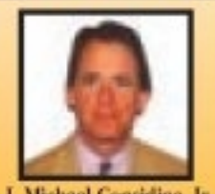

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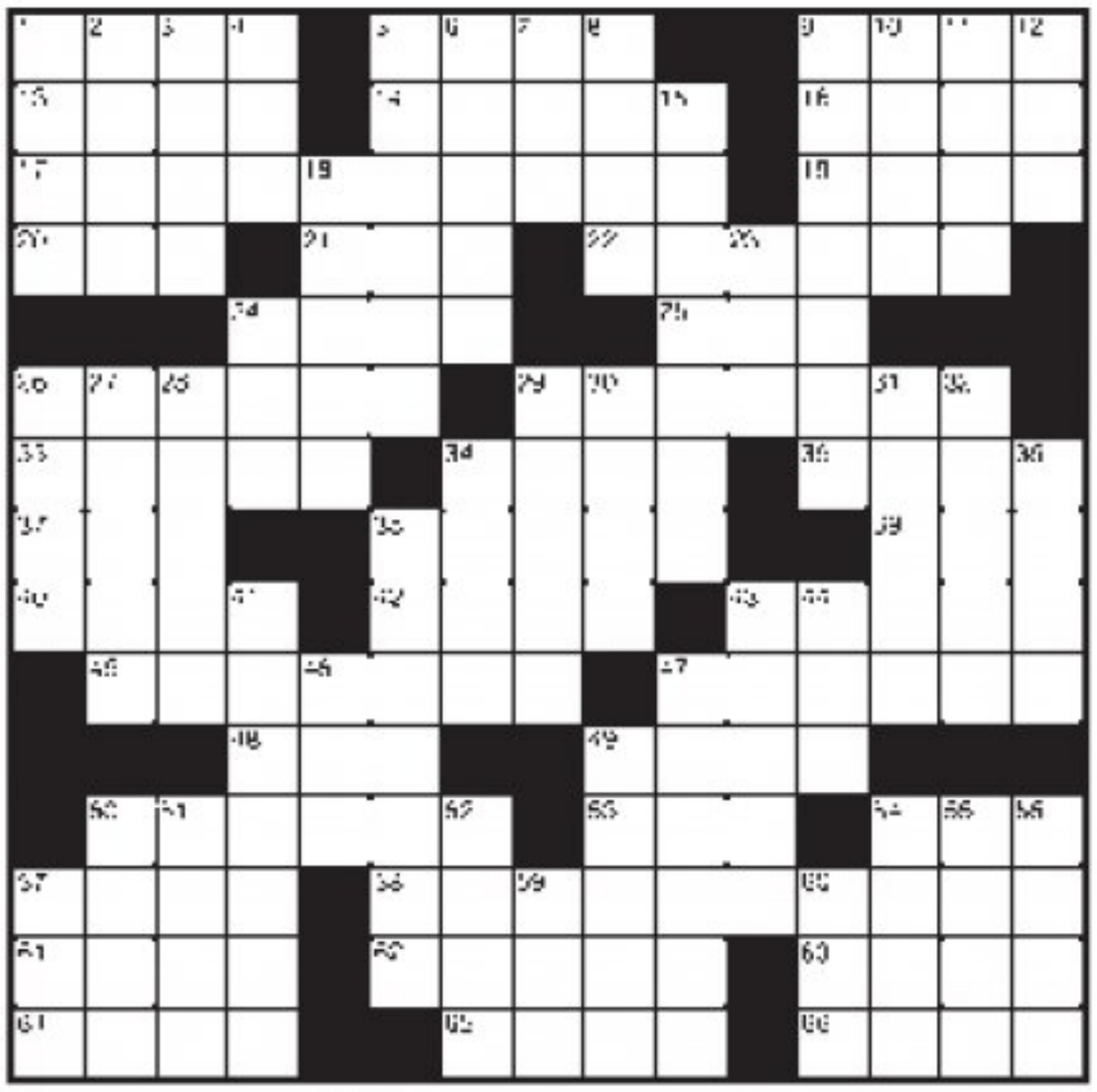

Across
1 Low-lying clouds
5 Blocks
9 Parka closer
13 "Run -- Run"
14 Ekberg or Loos
16 Hoop's place
17 Not narrow (hyph.)
19 Walkie-talkie word
20 WNW opposite
21 -- -- carte
22 Letter answerer (2 wds.)
24 Average guys
25 Aloha token
26 On a plane
29 Kind of fair
33 Welsh dog
34 Horse color
35 Lab weight
37 Pair in Scotland
38 Two-door car
39 See -- -- glance
40 Firms up
42 Grain bristles
43 Angle on a gem
45 Kin
47 Lawyer's customer
48 Comic-strip bark
49 Pitcher Nolan --
50 Loose talk
53 40-cup brewer
54 Ump's cousin
57 Nope opposite
58 "Icicle" in a cave
61 Penny --
62 Port in a storm
63 Telemarketing concern
64 M, to Einstein
65 Deli sandwich
66 Cabbage cousin

Down
1 Polar bear perch
2 Uh-oh!
3 Great merriment
4 Kyoto honorific
5 Put a parachute to use
6 Freud and Pavlova
7 Eliminate
8 Tread
9 Inclined
10 Exploding star
11 Hockey's "Bootnose" --
12 -- capita
15 "Sweet" girl of song
18 Kiwi language
23 Bridal notice word
24 Ruin a nylon
26 Circus routines
27 Shady nook
28 Take the podium
29 Dive, as a whale
30 Puts the lid on
31 Hunger for
32 Gobbled up
34 Misty of "Hee Haw"
36 Soda fountain treat
38 Hushpuppy go-with
41 Lowers prices
43 Alps' Mont --
44 Munich single
46 "-- Gratia Artis"
47 -- de Bergerac
49 Desk-drawer item
50 -- Lee Nolin of "Baywatch"
51 Feel one's --
52 Nile creator god
54 Costa --
55 Etc. cousin (2 wds.)
56 Woman, legally
57 Orange root
59 Hail, to Caesar
60 For shame!

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easy

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hard

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		2	1		7			
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		7	5		4		8	6
			8		3	6		
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	7	3		5	1			

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Don't make an assumption. It's important to be ready to act without quibbling or gossip. Search for the truth in order to justify your actions.

Taurus You need to exchange ideas in order to figure out a way to use your skills and knowledge more diversely. Avoid emotional arguments about religion, politics or money.

Gemini If you do your own thing, you'll make a lasting impression. Your ability to set goals and meet them will put you in a good position for advancement.

Cancer Don't sit back when you should be looking for ideas and starting conversations with people who want to make a difference. Set high standards and stick to them.

Leo Take a close look at your financial situation and health. Look for a way to cut corners without incurring more debt. Set up a health routine that will strengthen you.

Virgo Don't take anything for granted, and focus on preparation. A detailed approach to getting things done will help you gain acceptance and rewards.

Libra Engage in interesting spur-of-the-moment plans. Taking part in something will help you recognize what it is you want to pursue. Don't let anyone deter you.

Scorpio Don't get angry when you can get even. Accomplishing your goals and gaining respect from your peers will help you overcome lingering bad feelings.

Sagittarius A positive change will help you improve your position, reputation and lifestyle. Changes made at home must be based on your emotional needs.

Capricorn Plant your feet firmly on the ground and don't try anything that sounds the least bit risky. Stick to your game plan and budget.

Aquarius If you don't like something, change it. It's up to you to walk away from unsavory situations. Concentrate on getting ahead and bringing about positive change.

Pisces Choose your words wisely and remain firm about what you want to see happen. Have a plan in mind and present your solutions with diplomacy. EUGENIA LAST

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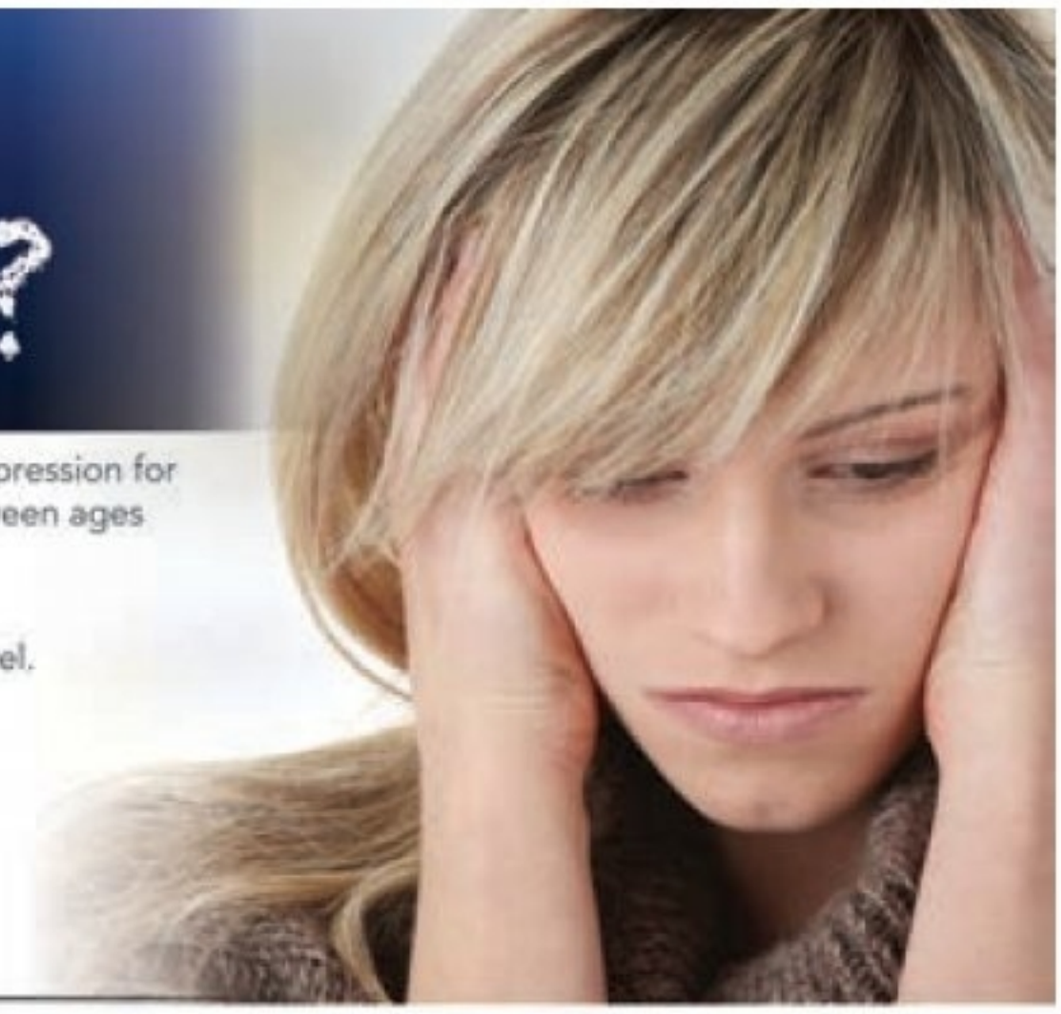

PRA Health Sciences in Marlton is now seeking mothers with postpartum depression for a clinical research study. Qualified participants for this study should be between ages 18 and 45, with postpartum symptoms for the past six months or less. In addition, participants should not be pregnant.

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